महाराष्ट्र में एस.टी.डी. एक्सचेंज

1256. **श्री गोविन्दराव आदिक :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) महाराष्ट्र में वर्ष 1995 के अन्त तक शुरू किये जाने वाले एस. टी.डी. एक्सचेंजों का जिलावार ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) राज्य के प्रत्येक जिले से एस.टी.डी. सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने के लिये किये गये अनुरोध का ब्यौरा जिला वार क्या है ; और

(ग) यह सुविधा कब तक उपलब्ध करा दी जायेगी और इस संबंध में प्रत्येक स्थान के लिये यह सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने की अनुमानित तारीख क्या है?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और इसे सभा पटल पर रख दिया जायेगा ।

Shortage of Dak materials in Almora District:

1257. SHR RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Dak materials in the post offices in Almora District in U.P. particularly at Basot, Taya. Seem, Bhikiyasain, Ranikhet and Chaunalla;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to supply adequate Dak materials to meet the demand of these post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. There was shortage of postal stationery, and especially envelopes from 26-3-94 to 8-6-94 and again from 3-8-94 to 12-8-94.

(b) Shortage was due to non receipt of consignment of stationery at Lucknow Stamp Depot, from Central Stamp Depot, India Security Press, Nashik.

(c) Supply of postal stationery has since been made to the Head Post Offices at Almora and Ranikhet in the first quarter of this year. Now, there is no shortage.

Unparalled foreign participation in basic telcom services

1258. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign participation in India's basic telecom sector, as announced by Government recently, has no parallel in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no country in the world has more than 20 per cent foreign equity participation in the telecom sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the provision of Rs. 50 crores bank guarantee has been introduced to encourage Multinational Corporations (MNCs) participation in the country's telecom sector to the total exclusion of Indian companies, in spite of their competence and expertise;

(d) if so, the reasons for such extraordinary and discriminatory provisions in the basic telecom sector; and

(e) whether Government contemplate to review these in the interest of self-reliance and national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir,

enough details about the permitted foreign participation in basic telecom sector in other countries is not available with the Government. As such it is difficult to make comparison.

(c) No Sir. Provision of basic telephone service on telecom circle basic requires huge capital investment which can be made only by financially sound companies. Government wants to ensure that only financially sound and serious players enter this area. The tender conditions provide for bidding only by Indian companies. Such Indian companies may have equity participation from foreign companies.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

(e) No Sir. Interest of self-reliance and national security have been taken into consideration, in the terms and conditions formulated.

Pay-phones to handicapped and weaker sections in Gujarat

1259. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any "Pay Phone" connections have been allotted in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of such connections given to SCs/STs handicapped and economically weaker sections, separately, togetherwith the places.

(c) whether any irregularities have been noticed in the allotment of these telephones conctions, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) STD PCOs are franchised to educated unemployed who fulfil the eligibility conditions prescribed. Preferential categories include SCs/STs and handicapped. No separate records indicating the pieces of installation of PCOs franchised to physically handicapped and SCs/STs are however maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Consortium value added services

1260. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made by Government to pool the resources of Government Departments like DOT, DOE and the Railways as well as public sector bodies like ITI, Hindustan Teleprinters, C-DOT etc., to launch a consortium which will have the potential of beating a major player in the market for value-added services;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir, there ir no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) One of the thrusts of liberalisation in Telecom service is to encourage participation of private sector in providing services